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Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General, in Geneva, says international community must resist fatalism, inequality and assaults on human dignity.

* UNHCR reports two deaths from starvation in Bihac pocket; says humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo could resume within 72 hours if conditions permitted.

* Mortar round wounds three peace-keepers at UNPROFOR headquarters as indiscriminate shelling of Sarajevo continues.

* High Commissioner Ogata to receive Philadephia Liberty Medal for work on behalf of refugees worldwide.

* Administrative and Budgetary Committee recommends General Assembly maintain current level of peace-keeping support account for July.

* Ad Hoc Committee on Indian Ocean concludes 1995 session; says major Powers should participate in discussion on peace and security in region.

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The international community must say "No!" to fatalism in the face of crisis; "No!" to continuing inequality; and "No!" to assaults on human dignity, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He made that comment in Geneva today, in an address on the role of religions in the promotion of peace and tolerance. He said humanity's economic interdependence and brotherhood must be announced through solidarity in development.

The Secretary-General said the current fiftieth anniversary celebrations should be an occasion to pay tribute to the spiritual foundations of the United Nations Charter. Citing the opening exhortation of the Charter -- "We the peoples of the United Nations" -- he said humanity should be constitutionally united as it was spiritually one.

Among his other appointments in Geneva today, the Secretary-General attended a plenary meeting of the International Law Commission. He was also

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scheduled to attend a meeting of senior development experts from African and donor governments to discuss African development policy.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has reported Bosnia and Herzegovina's first deaths by starvation since the war there began. An elderly man and a three-year old boy died of hunger in the Bihac pocket over the weekend. Two UNHCR convoys reached Bihac last week, but there have been no regular aid deliveries since Bosnian Serb forces began blocking access in May 1994.

In another development, the UNHCR said it was prepared to resume its humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo within 72 hours, but saw little prospect of that happening. The airlift has been suspended since 8 April because of the deteriorating security situation in the city, the refusal of the Bosnian Serbs to give safety assurances, and the refusal of the warring sides to discuss the reopening of the airport.

The UNHCR went on to say that it had only achieved 42 per cent of its humanitarian delivery targets in May. Deliveries to Sarajevo had declined in June and were expected to do so again in July.

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Sarajevo was subjected to further indiscriminate shelling over the weekend, according to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). Yesterday, a mortar round hit a tree at UNPROFOR headquarters in the city. Three peace-keepers were slightly injured, while a guard at the adjacent United States Embassy compound was more seriously injured.

Meanwhile, a French UNPROFOR convoy driving over Mount Igman was targeted by Bosnian Serb forces, who fired 15 rounds from a cannon. The Force responded with mortar fire, after first firing a warning smoke round. It was the first time UNPROFOR had used high explosive mortar rounds against the Bosnian Serbs.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata will tomorrow receive the Philadephia Liberty Medal for her work on behalf of refugees worldwide. The Medal recognizes people who have demonstrated leadership and vision in the pursuit of liberty of conscience, or freedom from oppression, ignorance or deprivation. Recent recipients have included Presidents Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk of South Africa and President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic.

"To me, this award has immense symbolic weight", Ms. Ogata said. "The

population of the United States is made up of people who left other countries to search for liberty and opportunity. Refugees have been driven from their homes by persecution and warfare, and they, too, long for those freedoms."

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has recommended that the General Assembly maintain for July the current level of resources approved under the support account for United Nations peace-keeping operations. The Assembly had authorized 346 posts and 61 positions under general temporary assistance to be funded from the support account in the amount of $14.1 million, for the period 1 January to 30 June.

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The Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean has said that greater efforts and more time are needed to develop a focused discussion on practical measures to ensure peace, security and stability in the region. The Committee made that comment on Friday, when it concluded its 1995 session by adopting its report to the General Assembly.

The Committee said it remained convinced that all permanent members of the Security Council and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean should participate in its work. It encouraged States concerned to resume their participation and urged its Chairman to pursue his dialogue with their Governments and to report back at its next session. France, the United Kingdom and the United States withdrew from the Committee in 1989.

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